

Amendments to the Abstract:

The Abstract for the application appears on the front page of the PCT application. Applicant has rewritten the Abstract on to a separate page as is required for US practice. Further, Applicant has made amendments to the Abstract to bring it into compliance with the 150 word limit. A marked-up version of the Abstract is provided below, and a clean version is provided on page 10 of this Amendment.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention relates to service and maintenance solutions for programmable and/or reconfigurable modules (CM_1, \dots, CM_n), which are included in the nodes of a communications network (140). The module (CM_1), ~~in turn,~~ contains a first digital storage unit (M_1), which holds information pertaining to the accomplishment of a primary function of the module (~~CM_1~~). A secondary function of the module (~~CM_1~~) involves control of the primary function. The module (~~CM_1~~) has an optical bi-directional interface (I_w) towards the first digital storage unit (~~M_1~~). ~~Thereby data~~ Data in the first digital storage unit (~~M_1~~) may be read out (D_0) ~~to the portable software carrier unit (130). The contents of the first digital storage unit (M_1) and~~ may also be updated (D_i) by ~~means of~~ the portable software carrier unit (~~130~~) via the optical bi-directional interface (I_w). ~~data~~ Data read-out (~~D_0~~) as well as data updating (~~D_i~~) may be accomplished independently of the primary function. Preferably, an access module (A) controls the bi-directional interface (~~I_w~~) in response to an authorization signal (SA) from an authorization unit (120, 121, 122, 123).